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1970/04/27

TELEGRAM Department of State

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TOP SECRET/NODIS/KHMER

Classification

ACTION: Amembassy SAIGON IMMEDIATE

INFO: Amembassy Phnom Penh PRIORITY

STATE 063335

NODIS/KHMER

1. Consensus here is that knowledge of operation will become public immediately after implementation and very likely in distorted fashion. In order insure maximum control over official public presentation envisioned previous messages we now believe situation will require announcement by GVN as soon after operation begins as feasible. Then follow-up statement from Washington will increase possibility keeping it in public mind as GVN-initiated US-supported exercise.

2. Thus request you urge Thieu to make official GVN announcement along lines previously discussed and consistent with military/security as soon as ~~feasible and military security permits after launching~~ operation is launched.

3. You should by FLASH message transmit text as soon as announcement made.

ROGERS

END

Drafted by: S/PRS:RMcCloskey:mw 4/27/70

Tel. Ext.

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: J:UAJohnson

Clearances:

S/S - Mr. ~~Brown~~ W.H./~~General Haig~~ Gen Haig

~~OSD/PA-Mr. Henkin~~

S-The Secretary (in draft)

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FORM DS-322 -65

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Authority EO 12958

By NARA Date